Feb. 17–19, 2000

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met on February 17th and 18th in St. John's and Joint Council (Branch Presidents and Executive) met on the evening of February 18th and all day on the 19th. This issue of Executive Notes is designed to provide you with a summary of major decisions and discussions occurring at these meetings. For further information please contact any member of Provincial Executive or the NLTA staff person as indicated.

Collective Bargaining

The Collective Bargaining Committee has been collecting information from teachers re. issues and concerns for consideration during the development of the opening proposals. To date, over 1,000 submissions have been received and five areas have evolved as the main concerns for teachers. They are: salaries; workload; class size; pensions and pension indexing; and employment of teachers.

At this Joint Council meeting Branch Presidents spent a great deal of time prioritizing issues of importance re. collective bargaining. The issues will be forwarded to the committee for review.

The Collective Bargaining Committee strongly encourages all teachers who have not already done so, to complete and forward a "Collective Bargaining Submission Form" as soon as possible.

The following motions have been forwarded to the Collective Bargaining Committee for review and/or recommendation:

- The Collective Bargaining Committee will explore the possibilities of developing a "bargaining unit work" clause for inclusion in the next opening package.
- The rate of pay for emergency supply teachers will be brought to the Collective Bargaining Committee for the next round of negotiations.
- The Collective Bargaining Committee will review the suggestion/motion that Article 9 of the Provincial Collective Agreement be modified such that once a teacher who is in the layoff pool is offered a position that they are capable of filling and they reject, that teacher loses the right to recall. That teacher will then be offered a position subject to their seniority and qualifications.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, Chair, Collective Bargaining Committee, or Perry Downey, Administrative Officer, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Labrador Benefits Agreement

All six public sector unions voted in favour of accepting the proposed Labrador Benefits

Agreement. As a result, the Agreement was formally signed at the Collective Bargaining Division of Treasury Board on February 9, 2000.

Treasury Board is now in the process of notifying the individual employers in Labrador of the ratification of the Agreement. The Labrador School Board will then be putting in place necessary payroll adjustments to incorporate increased levels of the Labrador and travel benefits.

For further information contact Edward Hancock, Director, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Educational Sector Analysis Proposal
Provincial Executive was asked to take part in focus group sessions as part of a study being carried out by Dr. Bruce Sheppard, Dr. Henry Schultz, and Dr. David Dibbon from the Faculty of Education, Memorial University. The study concerns the supply and demand of teachers in the province and is being conducted in two distinct phases. The first phase is the sector analysis, while the second will focus on sharing the results and using them to plan for the future. The findings are expected to be of interest to a variety of audiences including practicing and prospective educators, teacher organizations, governments and policy makers, and teacher training institutions.

For further information contact Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

Association Priorities
An updated report outlining the action on each priority was circulated to Provincial Executive. This report includes the target date for implementation, who is responsible, and an action update if available.

The priorities for the Association for 1999-2000 are collective bargaining, curriculum issues, membership involvement, and classroom issues. For a detailed report on each priority, please contact your Provincial Executive member.

For further information contact Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

Business from Standing Committees
Provincial Executive made a number of decisions based on reports and recommendations from NLTA Standing Committees. Among these decisions were:

- The Association will maintain its position that teachers occupying the positions of Human Resource Managers/Associate Assistant Directors are members of the bargaining unit.

For further information contact Edward Hancock, Director, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

- NLTA will explore the feasibility of hosting an invitational forum to examine and facilitate debate with respect to the issues related to the "Delivery of Education in the Classroom".

For further information contact Fred Andrews, President, or Wayne Noseworthy,

Executive Director.

- The Professional Issues in Teaching Committee is to reconsider the guidelines used for the funding of grants to organizations under the Professional Development Fund and report back to Provincial Executive.

For further information contact Elizabeth Murphy, Chair, Professional Issues in Teaching Committee, or René Wicks or Beverley Park, Administrative Officers, Professional Development Division.

Joint Council
The following motions were approved at the Joint Council meeting as recommendations to Executive:

- The NLTA will continue to endorse the Canadian Teachers' Federation initiative to seek support for the retention of Section 43 of the Criminal Code and that our endorsement will be forwarded to the Canadian School Boards Association, the Canadian Home and School Federation, the Canadian Police Association and the Canadian Council of Ministers of Education.

For further information contact Edward Hancock, Director, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

- The NLTA will study the possibility of forming a partnership with a teachers' union in a developing country with the intent of jointly designing and developing programs to advocate education and/or the teaching profession in that developing country.

For further information contact Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

- The NLTA will explore the possibility of obtaining a bulk subscription to "Education Monitor: Reporting on Education and Public Policy Issues", with the intent of providing copies for all members of Joint Council.

For further information contact Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer.

- The changes to NLTA policy that have occurred since BGM 1999 are accepted as policy.

For further information contact Geralyn Costello, Assistant to the President.

Other Business

- At a future Joint Council meeting there will be a collage of the various promotional media ads currently produced by the Association to raise the profile of teaching and to encourage people to enter the profession. The session will be followed by time for reaction and discussion.

For further information contact Fred Wood, Chair, Communications/Political Action Committee, or Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer.

- There will be seven pre-retirement seminars held in accordance with NLTA policy during the Fall of 2000, in the following locations: Gander, Corner Brook, Stephenville, Grand Falls-Windsor, and three in St. John's. The dates will be determined by the Benefits and Economic Services Division subject to hotel and presenter availability.

For further information contact the Benefits and Economic Services Division.

- A letter will be written to the Minister of Education asking that the Department formally oppose the introduction of the Youth News Network in Newfoundland and Labrador schools.

For further information contact Fred Andrews, President, or Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer.

- Representatives of NLTA are to meet with the appropriate Department of Education personnel to discuss issues around the "Spell Read Program" and to clarify the position of each organization regarding this program.

For further information contact Fred Andrews, President, or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

- NLTA will lobby for changes in the current pensions legislation to remove reference to mandatory retirement at age 60, to reflect the current NLTA policy.

For further information contact Fred Andrews, President, or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

- The proposed position paper on public/private partnerships was accepted by Provincial Executive. The NLTA policy on Educational Finance will be amended to include a new subsection on public/private partnerships.

For further information contact the Benefits and Economic Services Division.

NLTA Awards
Barry Pearce of the Trinity, T.B. Branch and **Randy Smith** of the Port aux Basques Branch will be the recipients of the Bancroft Award for 2000.

Harold Mullowney of the Waterford Valley Branch will be the recipient of the Special Recognition Award for 2000.

Nath Sheppard of the Humanities Council will be the recipient of the Barnes Award for 2000.

Beverley Butler of the Exploits Valley Branch will be the recipient of the Allan Bishop Award for 2000.
For further information contact Fred Andrews, President.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for **April 6 and 7** in St. John's. Provincial Executive meetings are open to all members of the Association. For further information contact Fred Andrews, President, or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

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